

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1 - 19. (Canceled).

20. (Previously presented) Tube, in particular for the use in medical devices in the form of catheters for endoluminal operations, comprising in at least one portion of its wall notches having a width  $A$  such as to locally increase flexibility of said tube, said notches being provided in at least one distal zone of said tube and exhibiting a substantially discontinuous helical pattern, wherein said notches form an angle  $\alpha$  with a circumference obtained on an outside surface of said tube, said angle  $\alpha$  increasing continuously from a distal end in a proximal direction, wherein each of said notches has two ends and a hole, having a diameter greater than the width of the notch, is formed at each said end to relieve stresses.

21. (Previously presented) Tube according to claim 20, wherein said notches having a predetermined axial distance from one another.

22. (Previously presented) Tube according to claim 21, wherein said axial distance between said notches increases from the distal end in the proximal direction.

23. (Previously presented) Tube according to claim 20, wherein a width of said angle  $\alpha$  increases by an amount  $\beta$  at each arc  $\gamma$  covered on the surface of the tube in terms of width  $E$  of each said notch and of angular distance  $G$  between two consecutive said notches.

24. (Previously presented) Tube according to claim 23, wherein a measure of said arc  $\gamma$  is between  $0^\circ$  and  $360^\circ$ .

25. (Previously presented) Tube according to claim 20, wherein said width A is between 5  $\mu\text{m}$  and 1 mm.

26. (Previously presented) Tube according to claim 20, wherein said width A is between 10  $\mu\text{m}$  and 25 $\mu\text{m}$ .

27. (canceled)

28. (Previously presented) Tube according to claim 20, wherein said portion comprising said notches extends from said distal end in a proximal direction for a length of between 70 and 110 mm.

29. (Previously presented) Tube according to claim 20, wherein said portion comprising said notches extends from said distal end in a proximal direction for a length of between 80 and 100 mm.

30. (Previously presented) Tube according to claim 20, wherein said tube is realized with a metal material.

31. (Previously presented) Tube according to claim 30, wherein said metal material is stainless steel.

32. (Previously presented) Tube according to claim 20, wherein said tube is made of a polymeric material.

33. (Previously presented) Tube according to claim 20, wherein said tube is made of a composite material.

34. (Previously presented) Tube according to claim 20, wherein said surface of said tube is covered with a layer of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE).

35. (Previously presented) Catheter for endoluminal operations comprising a tube according to claim 20.